

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 /091 W  
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R 141706Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0414

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, GW, LY

SUBJ: LIBYAN-WEST GERMAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING

REF: TRIPOLI 863 (NOTAL)

1. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE LIBYAN-WEST GERMAN  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION WAS HELD IN BONN FROM 29 JUNE TO  
1 JULY. ECONMIN PARTICIPANT TOLD EMBOFF THAT  
LIBYANS WERE PARTICULARLY CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE  
IN LINE WITH QADHAFI'S RECENTLY PROCLAIMED POLICY  
OF ECONOMIC REALISM (REFTEL). THE FRG DRAFT OF A  
PROTOCOL WAS TOTALLY ACCEPTED BY THE LIBYANS AND NO  
POLITICAL ISSUES WERE INTERJECTED INTO THE MEETINGS.  
ECONMIN OFFICIAL SPECULATED THAT QADHAFI WANTS TO CITE  
THE FRG AS A MODEL OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE  
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WEST IN ORDER TO COUNTER HIS IMAGE OF ISOLATION.

2. AS A RESULT OF THE COMMISSION MEETING, THE FRG AND LIBYA AGREED TO NEGOTIATE A DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY IN OCTOBER. THE FRG HAD PREVIOUSLY OFFERED THE LIBYANS THE STANDARD DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY WHICH THE FRG HAD SIGNED WITH MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. A LIBYAN COUNTER DRAFT PROVED TO BE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE BUT THE LIBYANS MADE KNOWN THEIR INTEREST IN FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ECONMIN OFFICIAL OBSERVED THAT THE CONGENIAL COMMISSION MEETING WAS ONLY AN OFFICIAL SYMBOL OF EXISTING VERY "REALISTIC" ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND LIBYA. HE SAID THAT FRG COMPANIES HAVE NOW ACCUMULATED DM 6 BILLION IN CONTRACTS WITH LIBYA AND THAT 70 PERCENT OF LIBYA'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WILL BE EXECUTED BY THE FRG. IN ADDITION, LIBYA HAS BECOME THE FRG'S LARGEST SUPPLIER OF CRUDE OIL IN THE WORLD DURING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1976.

4. ECONMIN OFFICIAL MENTIONED THAT LIBYAN PARTICIPANTS IN COMMISSION MEETING WERE ENROUTE TO THE FRG WHEN THE AIR FRANCE AIRLINER WAS HIJACKED. HE STATED THAT THERE WAS CONCERN FOR A TIME THAT THE MEETINGS WOULD BE CANCELLED IF THE HIJACKERS WERE ACCEPTED INTO LIBYA, BUT THEN THE PLANE WAS TRANSFERRED TO UGANDA. HE HAD HEARD SOME FRG OFFICIALS SPECULATE THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO EVENTS, BUT HE DID NOT THINK QADHAFI VALUED THE COMMISSION MEETINGS THAT HIGHLY.

5. THE LIBYAN-WEST GERMAN COMMISSION MEETINGS WILL NOW BE HELD ANNUALLY IN ALTERNATE CAPITALS. THE NEXT MEETING WILL THEREFORE BE HELD IN TRIPOLI. ECONMIN OFFICIAL DOWNPLAYED THE VALUE OF THE COMMISSION, BUT FORESAW SOME MARGINAL USEFULNESS IN THE ARRANGEMENT IN FURTHERING ECONOMIC COOPERATION. CASH

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